HAMATEURCHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

Vol.12 No. 09 -Septembert, 2004

President's Letter

Better late than never I say...

I have to say that there was a real vindication of our efforts during the last meeting! As those of you who attended know, we held an open discussion about the club and we even had a survey of what you wanted from this News Letter. There were a lot of very positive comments and encouraging comments. The positives ran very high while the negatives were few and pointed at some content and format as well as size... We had heard from one individual that several people had approached him complaining about those things and this drove us to believe that we needed to change things... the survey's answer is a resounding "NO" There were positive suggestions and some interesting ones as well. One member suggested more articles from the members... This is good and I hope we see a few of them in this issue!

We would like to encourage those of you who did not attend to come to the next meeting and to bring some friends! We have dynamic programs and seminars planned for the next few meetings and I think that you would benefit from the interplay and discussions that come from those eyeball QSO's! We also have other club activities! We hold a variety of on the air activities - Morse Code classes - 10 meter net - 2 meter net. On Saturday mornings we have a wild discussion group while we have breakfast! There is no topic that is safe from our grasp! Come one come all - we would enjoy your company!

Just a little morale booster for your board members... show up and participate. This is your club and sometimes we feel like we are talking into a vacuum. We actually hold discussions as to what we are or might be doing wrong... I expect that we may not be leading interesting enough lives. Be careful of that old Chinese proverb though "May your life be interesting" it can be a blessing or a curse.

How many of you are interested in DIGITAL photography? I am preparing a seminar on that subject and I will present it as a program one of these coming months. Just a preview - those digital cameras have reached a point where the quality of the information gathered as an image rivals the film media we used to work with. For instance, a 6 mega pixel camera can take higher resolution pictures than a standard 35 mm camera using ASA 200 film. Of course you can get finer film grain and then the film camera would come out ahead. An 8 mega pixel camera challenges medium format film cameras, at least as far as resolution is concerned. There are a few "digital" artifacts that prevent a user from matching film camera performance, but for resolution I expect that film is no longer a really viable option...

We continue to prepare for a two day class for Technicians. The class would be held on a Friday late afternoon_ from 6:00 to 9:00 and on a Saturday morning from 8:30 to 3:00 with a testing session coordinated to start at 3:30! At least that is one of the plans. There are a couple of

continued on pg. 3

MRAC Officers

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Milwaukee Area Nets

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY
Daily	5:00 - 7:15 AM	3.985	Badger Weather Net
Daily	6:00 PM	1.895	MidEast 160 m. Net
Daily	6-8:00 AM	14.290	Milwaukee/Florida (SSB)
Daily	7:30 AM	144.155	Breakfast RoundTable (SSB)
Daily	6:30 PM	3.645	WI Slow Speed CW Traffic
Daily	9:30 PM	3.9725	Country Cousins Net
Mon.-Sat.	12:00 PM	28.380	10/10 International Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	3.994	Tech Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.865-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.445	Emergency Net
Mon.	8:45 PM	146.670-	ARRL voice news (ARES)
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 m.SSB NET
Mon.	9:00 PM	146.670-	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.160	6 Mtr. 2nd Shifters' SSB Net
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.250	Badger Contesters (SSB)
Tue.	8:00 PM	7.035	A.F.A.R. (CW)
Tue.	8:30 PM	223.500	X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Tue.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 m. SSB Net.
Wed.	8:00 PM	28.365	10/10 Internat. (Milw. Ch.) (SSB)
Wed.	8:00 PM	145.130	ARRL voice news
Wed.	8:00 PM	147.270+	Weather & Swap net.
hu.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 mtr. SSB Net.
Thu.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Computer Net
Fri	8:30 PM	28.490	MRAC W9RH 10 m. Net (SSB)
Fri.	9:00 PM	145.390-	W9RH 2 m. FM Net after 10mtr.
Sat	9:00 PM	146.910-	Saturday Night Fun Net
Sun.	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Sun.	9:00 AM	145.565	X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Sun.	10:00 AM	443.800+	FM-38 link to 146.88 Bar. SWAP Net
Sun.	8:00 PM	28.365	10/10 Int. (MKE Ch.) (SSB)
Sun.	8:00 PM	146.910-	Information Net
Sun.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Swap Net

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600KHz - - 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 mtrs and above are USB

HAMATEURCHATTER

is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club) which is a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are $17.^{00}$ per year and run on a calendar year starting with January 1.

MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00 PM. the last Thursday of the month except for December and are held at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

Future Programs

Upcoming programs for MRAC are as follows:

The **September** program will be on **Lightning Protection** by Dick Wood, W9JBE

Credits

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

ARRL	AB9EY	W9UQ
AB9CD	KB9Q	N9UX
AB9EK		KF9XL

Thanks also to Rita Doneis for help in the proofreading dept. Our thanks goes to Dick Wood for making sure that the 'Chatter gets printed, stamped and mailed and to Joe Schwarz who Emails it.

Thanks also goes to Howard Parks who administers our website.

Thanks also to Ted Stiller for obtaining and serving refreshments at our meetings.

Thanks also goes to Tom Sherlowsky and Jacquie Horwitz for taking care of the raffle at the meetings.

Thanks to Mark Tellier, Tom Czaja, John Kraak and Tom Fuszard who are our VEC's.

Many Thanks goes to Jerry Wahlen for all of his work as Chairman of the Field Day Committee.

Thank YOU!

Reminder

Check in to our nets on Friday evenings.

Our Ten Meter SSB net is at 8:30 PM on 28.490 Mhz. USB

Our Two Meter FM net follows at 9:00 PM on our repeater @ 145.390 MHz with a – offset and a PL of 127.3 Hz

Join us for Saturday morning breakfast at Maxim's Restaurant, 18025 W. Capitol Dr. We usually meet at 8:00 AM, and order around 8:15 AM.

Membership Meeting August 26, '04

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm by club president Patrick, W9UQ. The microphone was passed for introductions. We welcome our visitor from Nebraska, Russell Cox, KC0ECT, who is attending school in Milwaukee.

Tom, AB9EK, read the minutes from the July meeting. A motion was made by Pancho, KA9OFA and seconded by Brian, K9LCQ, to accept the minutes as read. Motion passed.

The treasurer report for the month of August was given by Tom, AB9EK. A motion was made by Sherm KB9Q and seconded by Pancho to accept the report as given. Motion passed.

Mark, AB9CD stated that the repeater had recycled itself on Sunday the 22nd. Mark did not know why but the repeater seems to be functioning fine.

There was no old or new business.

A motion was made by Pancho, KA9OFA and seconded by Dick, WB9PTC to adjourn the meeting at 7:15pm. Meeting adjourned.

A book was donated by Del - KA9ZMK to be auctioned. Pancho was the highest bidder.

The program for the evening was a discussion on what the club members expect from the club and the Board, and what the Board expects from the members. A questionnaire was passed around asking club members what they thought of the club's newsletter. Should it be left as is or change? The results will be made known at the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Schulte

Tom Schulte, AB9EK

Club Secretary

Prez letter continued from pg. 1

30! At least that is one of the plans. There are a couple of caveats of course - after a short discussion and receiving FCC guidance - the instructors cannot participate in the testing and conversely the VE's cannot participate in the teaching - the only other pre-requisite is that the VE session be open to every one and announced ahead. Apart from those two requirements there are no stumbling block to holding a short class followed by a testing session. One thing we will need is instructors - please volunteer! We have a format we will work with and it will require about five or six instructors able to spell each other as speakers and able to walk the floor to help those students that may need individual coaching. Keep in mind that this will be a session aimed at people who have studied for the test before they come to the class... Candidates will be provided with a copy of the course material (on loan) and they will be expected to have gone through it and even taken some of the practice tests. What we will be teaching them is the basics needed to understand the material they have already seen. This is definitely not a class for someone who has no idea or experience with or about Amateur Radio. _ We are also planning three other classes, a standard 8-week Technician class, an 8-week General class, and a 10-week Extra class! Instructor and hall availability will determine the dates for these. In any case, if you want to contribute to this effort (and we do need your help) please contact one of the board members at our meeting or contact us by E-mail at W9RH or snail mail...

Thanks ahead of time!

Patrick W9UQ

MRAC VEC A Exam Schedule 2004-05

Sat., Sep. 25, 2004 – 9:30 AM @ AES
Sat., Oct. 30, 2004 – 9:30 AM – @ AES
Sat., Nov. 27, 2004 – 9:30 AM @ AES
Sat., Jan. 8, 2005 – 9 AM @
WARAC Swapfest@
AMF Waukesha Lanes (Near EXPO)
Sat., Jan. 29, 2005 – 9:30 AM @ AES
Sat., Feb. 26, 2005 – 9:30 AM @ AES
Sat., Apr. 2, 2005 – 9 AM @ AES
(AES Superfest)
Sat., Apr.30, 2005 – 9:30 AM @ AES
Sat., May 7, 2005 – 9 AM – Circle B Rec. Ctr. 6261 Hwy 60 (ORC Swapfest)
Sat., May 28, 2005 – 9:30 AM @ AES
Sat., Jul. 30, 2005 – 9:30 AM @ AES

AES is Amateur Electronic Supply
5710 W. Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

73,

John (KF9KL)

KF9XL

LEAGUE KICKS OFF 2005 SPECTRUM DEFENSE CAMPAIGN

The ARRL this week kicked off its 2005 Spectrum Defense Fund campaign with the slogan "more than just BPL!" ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, says that while interference from BPL--broadband over power line--technology is the most prominent and immediate threat to amateur spectrum, generous donations from ARRL members and supporters make it possible for the League to face it and other spectrum challenges. Haynie says that not all of ARRL's advocacy efforts necessarily involve taking defensive measures, such as with BPL, but all of them are essential.

"Forty meters, Little LEOs some years back, the work that the League's Technical Relations Office in Washington does--all this makes the spectrum available to us," Haynie said. "And without spectrum, the license that we have in our pocket or hanging up on the wall is pretty much useless."

Haynie says that, as he sees it, the League's job is to look out for the best interests of Amateur Radio and make sure that we have spectrum to operate on. "And that's a big job, it's a huge job that we've undertaken. It becomes very important because spectrum is so precious."

It's also a job whose cost and complexity have risen considerably in the past decade, as new technology-driven demand for spectrum has put increasing pressure on Amateur Radio frequencies. World Radiocommunication Conferences, at which ARRL and International Amateur Radio Union personnel represent Amateur Radio's interests, now occur every two or three years instead of once a decade. As ARRL CEO David Sumner pointed out in a fundraising letter <https://www.arrl.org/forms/fdefense/> to League members, in such an environment, the League no longer can cover the cost of its operations and advocacy efforts with dues revenue and the sale of publications and QST advertising.

"The whole philosophy of spectrum management is being rethought, with the objective of easing access for new products for consumers and industry," Sumner wrote. "But as the rules for their introduction and use are developed, we in the Amateur Radio Service need an advocate to ensure that our interests are safeguarded. With your help, the ARRL will continue to be that advocate, for ourselves and for future generations of radio amateurs."

In 1985, the League spent perhaps $200,000 on advocacy and spectrum defense. The League's Washington office at the time consisted of one staff member. As 2005 looms, it's a much different picture.

"Today we spend close to $900,000, and I know it's something that hams can't see, touch or feel, but it's just as important as those things that they can--like QST and the Handbook," Haynie said, "because we would not have all those things if it were not for the fact that we have a place to operate."

The 2005 Spectrum Defense Fund depends on membership support and is essential to the League's continued success. Radio amateurs may contribute online via the ARRL's secure donor Web site <https://www.arrl.org/forms/fdefense/fdefense.html>. Those contributing at or above the $50 level may request a gift as a token of the League's appreciation.

For more information about the 2005 Spectrum Defense Fund or to discuss other ways you can support the ARRL's continuing work n behalf of Amateur Radio, contact ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH. <k1mmh@arrl.org>; 860-594-0397.

This article taken from:

The ARRL Letter with permission from The American Radio Relay League

EVENTS

* = VE Testing

MRAC General Meeting
Thu. - Sep. 30, 2004
Redemption Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, WI

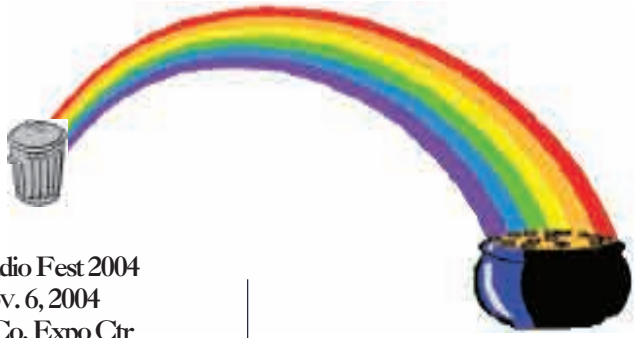
Hoosier Hills Hamfest *
Sat - Oct. 3, 2004
Lawrence Co. 4-H Fairgrounds
Bedford, IN
T/I on 146.73- (107. PL)

MRAC General Meeting
Thu. - Oct. 28, 2004
Redemption Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, WI

Amateur Radio Fest 2004
Sat - Nov. 6, 2004
Waukesha Co. Expo Ctr
Waukesha, WI
T/I on 146.910 - (127.3 PL)

Fox Cities SwapFest *
Sun. - Nov. 7, 2004
Waverly Beach
Menasha, WI

MRAC General Meeting
Thu. - Nov. 18, 2004
Redemption Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, WI



THANKSGIVING
Nov. 25, 2004

Christmas party/ Dinner???
Dec. ???

WARAC Midwinter SwapFest *
Sat. - Jan. 8, 2005
Waukesha Co Expo Center Forum
Waukesha, WI.

On The Air Code Classes and Practice

Dan - KB9YDI has been conducting on the air code classes and practice on our repeater at 145.39- MHz (PL 127.3) for some time now.

These classes and/or practice sessions are open to anyone and you can participate in them on the air if you have a Tech or higher license

They take place on Monday and Wednesdays starting at 7: 00 PM. The first half hour is for beginners and teaches all characters and basics needed for CW on the air. At approximately 7:30 PM the class begins practice in the format of a QSO similar to that of an exam session. CW OTA ends around 8 PM.

F.D. Pix

A couple of Photos from Field Day 2004

WA9YAL & AB9CD Operating 15 meters

Who was responsible for the scrumptious spread that we enjoyed? Our belle Mel.

'Chatter Deadline

The deadline for items to be published in **HamateurChatter** is the 7th day of each month. If you have anything for the 'Chatter, please get it to me before then.

You may contact me by email at:

pancho@thepark.net

or by snailmail at:

Pancho Doneis - KA9OFA
1958 N. 38th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53208

or by phone at:

(414) 344-4694

The **next Meeting** of **M.R.A.C.**
will be **Thursday -September 30, 2004**
at **7:00 PM** at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
(Use the South entrance)
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please don't call the church.

Our Repeater -- Use it or lose it.

145.390 MHz - offset and
PL of 127.3Hz

The program for the
September 30th
MRAC
general meeting
will be:
Lightening Protection
by
Richard Wood - W9JBE

Visit our Website **http://www.qsl.net/mrac/**
Our Phone (262) 797-MRAC
797 - 6 7 2 2

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